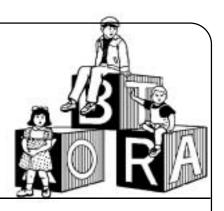
Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries





North Dakota Department of Health

Fall 2005

Division of Injury Prevention and Control

Powered Scooter Injuries

A new year-long study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) finds there were an estimated 10,000 emergency room injuries involving powered scooters from July 2003 through June 2004, the first year for which there is reliable data.

According to the CPSC staff report, fewer than one-half of all victims were wearing helmets at the time of the incident, and few were wearing other safety gear, such as knee and elbow pads. About two-thirds of all injuries occurred in children younger than 15.

The study was undertaken to get more accurate picture of injuries as powered scooters have risen in popularity.

Study findings include:

- Seventy-one percent of the incidents were related to the operator (36%), the environment (35%) or a combination of the two. Incidents include operators who lost control of the scooter; braked too quickly; accelerated unexpectedly; fell off the scooter; had two people riding on the scooter; hit a curb, bump or pothole; or rode over gravel.
- About one in five incidents was blamed on scooter problems-including brake failure, loose handlebars, the accelerator sticking and cuts on sharp edges of the scooter.
- Almost one-half of the injuries suffered were bruises, abrasions, lacerations or hematomas (a localized collection of blood). More than one-quarter of the injuries were fractures.

CPSC has reports of 49 deaths attributed to powered scooters from October 1998 through November 2004. Twenty-nine of the deaths were the result of accidents with motor vehicles. These scooters can be powered by either electric or gasoline engines. Both types of scooters usually have two wheels, a platform to stand on and handlebars. The scooters sometimes have detachable seats. CPSC recommends the following safety guidelines to help prevent scooter deaths and injuries:

- Wear a bike helmet, along with knee and elbow pads.
- Ride on smooth surfaces. Avoid dirt, sand, gravel and water, which can cause falls.
- Do not ride scooters at night.
- Do not allow children 12 and younger to ride fast-moving motorized scooters.

Owners of motorized scooters should check with local authorities for riding guidelines and restrictions. Many local jurisdictions prohibit the use of powered scooters on roadways and sidewalks.



For more information about shaken baby syndrome prevention, call 800.472.2286

Goalie Masks Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Mission-ITECH are voluntarily recalling 5,000 hockey masks. A metal wire on the mask could break at or near a weld point, exposing a hockey goalie to facial injuries. ITECH received three reports of injuries sustained from the wire breaking at or near a weld point. The injuries included superficial facial and eye injuries. The products included in the recall are ITECH Profile 2100, 1100 and 8.0 hockey goalie masks and ITECH RP607 and RP609 goalie mask replacement wires.

Sporting goods and hockey specialty stores sold the masks and replacement wires between January 1999 and September 2004. Consumers should stop using the masks and replacement wires immediately and return them to the company for a free replacement unit. For more information, consumers should call ITECH at 877.832.3366.

Baby Jumpers Recalled

The CPSC and Kids II Inc. are recalling 29,300 Bright Starts Jammin' Jumpers. The plastic clamp that attaches the jumper seat to a door frame can break, which can cause the unit to fall to the floor. This poses an injury hazard to young children.

The recalled product model number 6607 is found on a white warning

label on the canvas seat. Mass merchandise and juvenile specialty stores nationwide sold the jumpers from December 2003 through May 2005. Consumers should stop using the product and call Kids II at 877.325.7056 for a free replacement product.

Strollers Recalled

CPSC and Graco are voluntarily recalling about 1 million Duo Tandem and about 143,000 MetroLite strollers. The strollers can fail to latch properly and unexpectedly collapse while in use. Graco has received 306 reports of the Duo Tandem stroller

collapsing and 230 reported injuries, including a broken arm and a cut to a child requiring 46 stitches. The MetroLite stroller was reported to have collapsed unexpectedly 223 times, causing 34 injuries.

Discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide sold the strollers from January 1994 through December 2002. Consumers should stop using these strollers immediately and contact the firm at 800.981.4412 to receive a free repair kit.





Stroller	Model Numbers	Serial Number Range
Duo Tandem	7950, 7955, 7960, 7965, 7970, 7980	Between 01011994 and 12311999
Duo Tandem	7990	Between 01011996 and 10311998
MetroLite	6110DW, 6114NGS, 6110F3, 7410CON, 6111FKB, 7413CML, 6114HAV, 7413MRN, 6114JAM	

Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov www.ndhealth.gov

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This newsletter can be accessed at www.health.state.nd.us

Toy Trucks Recalled

The CPSC and Target Corp. are recalling 17,400 "So Hot Way Cool Free Wheel Trucks". Small parts could break off the truck, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The recall includes four-piece truck sets. Various trucks sold in the sets include a combination of fire trucks, oil trucks, vegetable trucks, sanitation trucks, tow trucks and box trucks. The trucks were sold at Target stores from April 2005 through May 2005.

Consumers should take the toy trucks away from children and return them to the nearest Target store for a gift card in the amount of a full refund.

Wagons Recalled



CPSC and Radio Flyer Inc. are recalling about 38,000 toddler Walker Wagons. The tips of the clickers, which make a clicking sound when the wagon wheels move, can break off. The

broken clickers pose a choking or aspiration hazard to young children.

The wagon was sold at toy, department and discount stores, in catalogs and by Web retailers from August 2003 through May 2005. Consumers should take these recalled wagons away from young children immediately and contact Radio Flyer at 800.621.7613 for free replacement clickers.

Millions of Children's Chairs Recalled

The CPSC is working with four companies to recall children's folding chairs. Summit Marketing, Meco Corp., Fourstar Group and Nuova Inc. are all recalling millions of folding chairs. The recalled chairs either have a safety lock that fails, allowing the chair to collapse or fold unexpectedly, or children's fingers can become caught or entrapped in the hinge and slot

areas of the chair. Incidents reported include pinched, broken and amputated fingertips.





The chairs are made of metal tubing with a vinyl-padded seat and seat back. They were sold in an assortment of colors, some with sports or character designs.

The chairs were sold at toy, grocery, hardware and discount stores nationwide from September 2003 through May 2005.

Consumers should stop using the chairs immediately and call the company of their product at:

Summitt Marketing - 866.270.6275 Meco Corp. - 800.251.7558 Fourstar Group - 866.290.6191 Nuova Inc. - 866.772.1666

Pogo Sticks Recalled

CPSC and Fisher-Price are recalling 154,000 Grow-To-Pro pogo sticks. An internal metal pin can wear down, causing the pogo sticks to remain stuck in the down position and release unexpectedly. Fisher-Price has received 17 reports of incidents with the pogo sticks, including one report of two teeth being lost and one report where stitches



were required. Other injuries involved cuts and bruises to the face, arms and legs from fall injuries.

The pogo sticks are traditional pogo sticks with a round, removable base, two foot pegs, handles and the words "Grow to Pro Pogo" stamped on the front of the product. The pogos were sold by discount department and toy stores nationwide from January 2002 through August 2004.

Consumers should stop using this product immediately and contact Fisher-Price at 800.991.2444 to receive a free replacement pogo stick.

Target Helmets Recalled

CPSC and Target are recalling approximately 500,000 Back Trails Jr. bicycle helmets. The helmets do not meet CPSC



safety standards for bicycle helmets, posing a risk of riders suffering head injuries.

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Target Helmets Recalled (continued)

The recall includes Target's Back Trails Jr. brand toddler, youth and child bicycle helmets sold in various colors. Helmet model numbers 89888 or 88003 (toddler), 89951 or 88001 (girls' youth), 89952 or 88002 (boys' youth) or 89917 (child) appear on a white label inside the helmets, along with date of manufacture and the words Made in China.

Target stores nationwide sold the helmets from April 2004 through July 2005. Consumers should replace the helmet right away and return the helmet to Target for a gift card. For more information, call Target at 800.440.0680.

Pacifiers Recalled



CPSC and Delta Enterprise Corp. are recalling 180,000 Lov's Decorated Orthodontic Pacifiers. The pacifiers are banned under federal law because they failed federal safety tests when the nipples separated from the bases. CPSC received one report of a 6-month-old child who was found gagging on the nipple that had separated from the pacifier.

The recalled pacifier measures about 2-1/3 inches in width and 1-1/2 inches in length and has buttoned or hinged handles. The pacifiers are white with various

colored handles, and some have designs imprinted on the shields.

The pacifiers were sold in retail stores from November 2001 through December 2004. Consumers should discard the pacifiers and contact the firm for instructions about how to obtain a refund or replacement product. Consumers can contact Delta Enterprises at 800.377.3777.

Frog Gym Recalled

CPSC, Infantino LLC. and Wal-Mart Stores are recalling 26,000 Baby Connection Fun Frog Soft Gyms. A cap on the wire supports inside the soft gym's upright arms can



detach, allowing the wire to poke through the fabric. Infantino has received two injury reports associated with this product.

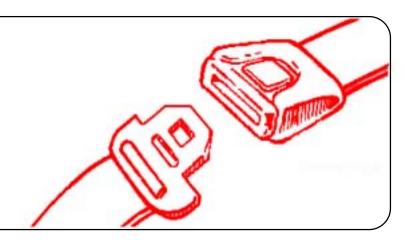
The recalled gym is a frog-shaped padded fabric mat from which blue and orange support arms extend. A label with the word Infantino is attached to the underside of the mat.

Wal-Mart Stores nationwide sold the gym from October 2004 through May 2005. Consumers should return the recalled soft gyms to their nearest Wal-Mart to receive a refund. For more information, call Infantino at 888.808.3111.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301 North Dakota Department of Health Division of Injury Prevention and Control

The Buckle Update



Common Mistakes Parents Make When Using Car

Seats

The statistics are chilling-four out of five car seats are used incorrectly. According to child passenger safety technicians, the following are some of the



most common mistakes parents make when using car seats:

- Child restraint not installed tightly in vehicle. Test for tightness by grasping the car seat near the belt path (where the seat belt is threaded through the child restraint). The child restraint should not move any more than one inch side-to-side or forward-backward. Be sure the seat belt is locked. If you are unsure of how to engage the locking mechanism, check the vehicle's owner's manual.
- Child not securely snug in the car safety seat.
 Harness straps should be adjusted so you cannot
 pinch slack in the straps. The retainer clip should
 be armpit level.
- Harness straps in the wrong slots. Generally, harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders when the car safety seat is rear-facing and at or above the child's shoulders when the car safety seat is forward-facing. However, in many convertible car seats, *only* the top slots may be used when the seat is forward-facing. It is critical to verify correct slots in the manufacturer's instructions.
- Children younger than 13 riding in the front seat. Children 12 and younger should ride in the back seat-even if the vehicle doesn't have airbags.

- Infants riding forward facing. Infants should ride in rear-facing car seats until they are both 20 pounds and 1 year of age. After babies outgrow their infant-only car seats (about 20 pounds), they should be moved to a convertible car seat but kept in the rear-facing position. If the convertible car seat has a rear-facing weight limit of 30 to 35 pounds, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the child continue to face backwards.
- Children between 40 and 80 pounds riding in vehicle seat belts instead of booster seats.

 Booster seats raise the child up and help position the lap belt low on the hips and the shoulder belt across the chest. Children between 40 and 80 pounds and up to 4 feet 9 inches tall should use booster seats.
- Car seats recalled, in a crash or purchased second-hand. Some recalled car seats can be repaired by contacting the manufacturer; others will need to be replaced. Car seats involved in a moderate to severe crash should be replaced. Parents should avoid purchasing car seats at rummage sales because the seats may be recalled, may be missing parts, or may have been in a crash.

Keeping Kids Safe During Carpool Season

A new national survey sponsored by Nissan North America Inc. indicates that many mothers are extremely concerned about their children's safety, especially in other parents' vehicles.

According to the survey of consumers conducted by SrategyOne, a national public opinion research company, 69 percent of mothers are "very or extremely concerned" about their children's safety when they carpool with other parents. Their first concern is that

Continued on next page

Keeping Kids Safe During Carpool Season (continued)

their children will not be properly restrained, followed by concern that being in a hurry to get to destinations

will compromise safety.

The survey also found that 79 percent of mothers find children's behavior to be the biggest distraction while driving, with 75



percent citing use of cellular phones as a distraction.

Nissan offers the following tips to help keep children safe:

- Fasten seat belts before takeoff. Check each child's safety seat, booster seat or seat belt to ensure they are properly used.
- Use music or soft toys and games to entertain and occupy children's attention.
- Reinforce good behavior with prizes.
- Pull the vehicle over at a safe place to deal with behavior problems. Don't try to solve situations while driving.
- Do not use cell phones when driving.

Hidden Danger With LATCH Child Restraints

Safety experts nationwide are concerned about a possible unexpected and dangerous side effect of a new car seat anchoring system called "LATCH" after learning that a child was nearly strangled by a seat belt while riding in her car seat.

The new LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system is required on most child safety seats and cars manufactured after 2002. The system does not use a vehicle's lap-shoulder seat belts, which are left hanging free.

In March 2005, a 3-year old child suffered near-strangulation by wrapping the unoccupied seat belt around her neck. The child survived and is fine, but her experience has prompted several pediatric and passenger safety experts to recommend that parents lock seat belts behind car seats when using LATCH to deter children from playing with loose belts.

The LATCH system itself is safe and still should be considered a highly secure method of anchoring a car seat.

The March incident occurred just 23 days after another child was strangled by a lap-shoulder seat belt in a parked vehicle. The child, who was about 3, was watching a movie in the back seat and somehow got his neck hooked in the belt. The belt kept ratcheting until the child died from asphyxia due to neck compression. The boy's parents were standing nearby, but did not realize what was happening.

Child safety advocates caution parents against leaving children unattended in vehicles even for short periods of time. They encourage parents who use LATCH to install their car safety seats to lock the unused seat belts behind (not through) the child restraint to keep them out of reach of young children.

